Amiga Technologies are off the starting block and half-way down the track. But when will they reach the finishing tape?
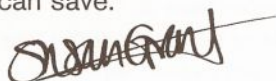
Dear Subscriber,

The good news is that Amiga Technologies have set up six offices around the world – one is in Philadelphia in the States and the other five are based in Europe, including the one we told you about last month which is based in Maidenhead and run by ex-Commodore UK man Jonathan Anderson. And anyone who is connected to the Internet will have already seen the brand new logo for the Amiga. (What do you think of the design, by the way? Write in and let us know.)

The bad news is that the price of the A1200 looks like its going to be £399 and the on-sale date for A1200s has slipped a bit to the end of September, so we'll have to wait that bit longer to replace our tired old friends – you'll find the latest news from Amiga Technologies on page 14. They also plan to hold another press conference in London in August – Amiga Shopper will be there and we'll be able to bring you even more news next month.

We've also been busy planning some great issues for you, with a Supertest of monitors next month and a new 3D tutorial from Babylon 5 man Mojo, and there's certainly no shortage of great Amiga kit to review.

Back to this issue, we asked our panel of Amiga experts to tell us all about the Amiga equipment they use everyday and which Amiga software and hardware they just couldn't do without. John Kennedy loves messing about with music on his Amiga, so we asked him to review the best Amiga music packages and hardware for our Supertest this month – check out our feature in last month's Amiga Shopper where we tell you all about the successful group Alien Race who use Amigas to produce their music. We also give you a leg up the music ladder with our top hints and tips for getting your music published.

If all that wasn't enough, now there's another reason why subscribing to Amiga Shopper makes sense. Not only do you save money by getting your issues cheaper than anyone else, not only do you receive this newsletter and your exclusive subscribers-only Coverdisk every month, but now you can get extra money off Amiga Shopper's Mail Order goods too, which makes them even more of a bargain! Turn to page 78 of the issue to find out how much money you can save.

Sue Grant

Sue Grant,
Editor.

Sue Grant is the Editor of Amiga Shopper. She has worked in publishing for over 13 years and has been at Future Publishing for the past three of them, firstly as Production Editor of Super Play, then as Deputy Editor of Amiga Format.

Subscribers disk

Here we go again. Another month, another Subscriptions disk and another set of top notch software. **David Taylor** *introduces this month's selection.*

It's a Monday morning and after a hectic two weeks ensuring we got the latest versions of software and the very best programs available, I have to admit I'm a bit stuck for words. Yeah, the programs are great and everyone's certain to find something they want. Sure, the amount of data packed on to this disk is incredible. You'll soon be wondering how you did without this or that utility. But how can I say all that without boring you? I guess I'll have to let you find out for yourselves...

Organiser

Kicking off this month's crop is an organiser that actually consists of more than one program. When you load the manager, you can choose which parts of the organiser you want to use. These parts are then loaded separately. Each element is given an item in the Tools menu on Workbench. This way the composite parts are smaller and can be loaded independently, which makes it faster and more flexible. So, if you're not in need of the address book side, but need to remember Aunt Hilda's birthday, then just use the scheduler part.

The program is easy to use and comes with extensive documentation. Thanks to Norman Little, the author, for sending it in. The source code is also included, archived in the source directory using LZX. To de-archive it, you need either a hard disk or a lot of RAM because the source is over 1Mb. If you are unsure how to de-archive, open a Shell and type:
"AS_1095_1:c/unlzx x AS54_Subs1:AS54_Subs_Zo ne1/Organiser/source/source.lzx <destination>" (where <destination> is changed to your destination, e.g. RAM:).

Menus & More

Ever wanted to create a lovely graphical interface to launch your programs? You can draw it in DPaint but can't do anything with it? Menus & More is the solution. Described as a closer way to designing your own Workbench than anything else, there's a program for creating screen menus and also one for playing them back, so you can fully integrate them into your system.

There are some example files included to help you get started, but a read of the docs is recommended.

DClock

Because I compile the disks, I end up searching through hundreds and hundreds of megabytes of programs every month. Consequently, my WBStartup drawer is being changed quite often. One program that I've been searching for is a good clock. There are loads of programs out there, but they are either too large or don't do enough. DClock is configurable and powerful, with alarm features and dates, yet it's small and easy to use.

Wangipad

I admit it. I used to be a Tools Daemon freak. Nothing and nobody could convince me that any other program would do. But Wangipad, sent in by Lee Kindness, has changed my mind.

Tools Daemon is a configurable menu for Workbench that allows you to put your favourite programs in there, giving you instant access, instead of having to dig through directories to double-click on their icon. Wangipad is slightly different. This program puts a launchpad on your Workbench. This little window can be user defined for size and placing, and you can set it up as you want and then capture it using the Preference editor. Like Tools Daemon, you can put as many programs in there as you want. Then to use a program, you just double click on the name.

Because it's always there, I've found it easier to see where the programs are and don't even need to look through menus to start the program I need. Into the WBStartup drawer with this one!

Image Compressor

Here's a program for all you AMOS users. This can compress and decompress IFFs as ABK powerpacked files. It has been written to replace the IFF compacter that comes with AMOS Pro. There are quite a few options, which should make this worth a look for AMOS programmers. This version requires registering to get all the options.

And the rest...

Oh, we're nowhere near finished, but we're running out of space already. So I'd better make a quick mention of the other goodies on the disk.

There's **Opticon**, which is a great CLI command that optimises icons and removes the unnecessary data. You'll be surprised at how much difference this makes. There's also the **Icon2C** utility in this drawer.
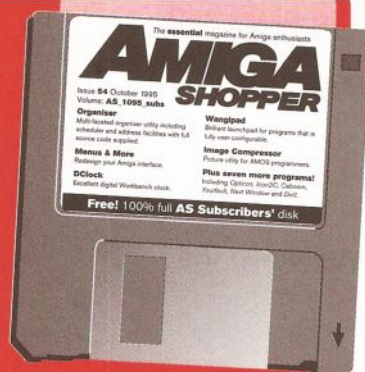
Lee Kindness supplied another two programs, **Caboom** and **Yourfault**. The first one will make your windows explode when you close them and the other is an amusing little hack that changes the error messages on your Amiga to point the problem back at you, like "No banana in drive"!! The source code for both has been included and can be found in LZX format in each directory (see the information on Organiser for an idea of how to de-archive the code).

There's also a **guide file on CD-ROMs**, giving you an insight into how they work so you'll be able to make a more informed choice, knowing exactly what you need.

Next Window is a commodity that will allow you to cycle through windows and activate them without using the mouse, which should make life easier for Shell users.

Last, but not least, is **DirII**, a replacement Dir command that supplies you with more info than the original command.

And a quick byte count for this month's three AS disks brings the fully de-archived score to a fun-filled 8Mb! Thank you, and good night. ∎

- **Organiser**
- **Menus & More**
- **DClock**
- **Wangipad**
- **Image Compressor**
- **Opticon**
- **Icon2C**
- **Caboom**
- **Yourfault**
- **CD-ROM guide**
- **Next Window**
- **DirII**